

heavy mist and light drizzle. A quick inspection of the trap revealed nothing new so I decided to sleep again and pack up the traps later – well, the hoverfly only comes out in sunshine so why should I be any different.

I awoke again at 9am to glorious sunshine. Having already checked the moths five hours earlier, I had a leisurely coffee and then wandered down to gather in the traps, not really expecting any surprises. Nevertheless, the sound of Paul Waring's famous advice ringing in my ears made me check *under* the sheet in case I had missed anything. No – nothing there. The trap was duly packed up into the carrying bag and off I went slowly, but surely, up the steep chalk slope to the van. Halfway up I became aware of a rustling in the bag. I thought nothing of it. I reached the top of the slope and the rustling continued. It was large – probably that Poplar Hawk-moth still on the egg trays, I thought. The bag was duly opened and a hand inserted. The egg trays came out – nothing. Then the sheet. Ah ha! Inside the sheet. The sheet was duly shaken and at my feet dropped the offending wriggler – a 12-inch long adder *Vipera berus*! It is debatable who moved the fastest – adder to stage left or entomologist to stage right!

So, Paul, if you are reading this, you might like to modify your famous (and quite correct) advice to beginners. Check under the sheet *and* check inside the carrying bags too.– COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP.

***Aryresthia cupressella* Wals. and *A. trifasciata* Stdgr. (Lep.: Yponomeutidae) in Essex**

Adults of both of these species were found to be common in my Colchester garden on 26 May 1999 whilst I was removing a large specimen of the conifer *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* "Minima Aurea". Cocoons containing pupae were gathered and adults of *A. cupressella* emerged a few days later. Other ornamental conifers in the immediate area include various *Juniperis*, *Thuja* and *Cupressocyparis*, but no signs of *Argyresthia* feeding were found on those checked. Both moths species showed reluctance at flying during the day, but at night were strongly attracted to mercury vapour light.

On 10 June 1999, Dr C. Gibson reported *A. cupressella* adults at his Dovercourt garden. For *A. cupressella*, this and the Colchester record represents small, but significant, easterly and southerly range extension from the area of Suffolk and North Essex where it was first discovered in Britain in 1997 (Agassiz and Tuck, 1999. *Ent. Gazette* 50: 11-16) and, although the activities of its larvae do not cause host trees to become obviously unsightly, it seems destined to become something of a garden pest.

For *A. trifasciata*, first recorded in Britain by R. A. Softly at Hampstead, London in 1982 (Emmet, 1982 *Ent. Rec.* 94: 180-182) and since in a number of localities, this is a new county record.– BRIAN GOODEY, 298 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 4ET.